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World's Largest Renewable Energy Consumer

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GUILIN (May 25) XINHUA - China has become the world's largest renewable energy consuming country, according to sources with the International Symposium on Renewable Energy Development underway here.

Mehmet Ogutcu, principal administrator of the International Energy Association, said that among the energy China is presently using, one fourth is renewable energy, including water power, bioenergy and solar energy.

Li Longxing, deputy secretary general of the World Energy Council China Committee, said that China is second only to the United States in energy consumption. But most of the energy China uses is coal, which causes environmental problems, he said.

He said that the use of renewable energy can help make China less reliable on traditional energy sources.

China has abundant resources of renewable energy. For example, the country is able to produce 130 million kwh of hydro-electricity every year.

Rural areas are leaders in use of renewable energies, such as bio-gas and solar energy. Doing so in turn relieves the government 's burden of providing energy for the vast countryside.

China has also decided to promote wind power in coastal areas and northwest hinterlands.

The country will increase use of renewable energy by 10 percent annually, according to its five-year energy development plan.

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